



ALIANZA PODER

A NETWORK OF SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

Date: March 16, 2023

To: Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business

From: Joanne Mina
Alianza Poder Network Coordinator
Capaces Leadership Institute
356 Young St, Woodburn, OR 97071

RE: Letter of Support for SB 907

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business,

I write on behalf of Alianza Poder Network to express our full support for SB 907 which clarifies Oregon's [state](#) rule that already allows workers to refuse unsafe work, this right is very difficult to exercise, and often results in retaliation. The Oregon legislature must guarantee the “right to safe work” by making this *existing* right easier to exercise. We believe that in Oregon if a worker reasonably believes a job assignment can seriously injure or kill them, they should be able to say no.

Established in 2003, Alianza Poder (Formerly the CAPACES Network) is a collaborative of ten sister organizations, hosted and coordinated by the CAPACES Leadership Institute (CLI), which are serving, organizing, and building the leadership of our comunidades Latinas, Indigenas, y Afro-descendientes in Oregon to improve the quality of life for all, especially working families. SB 907 Workplace Safety aligns with our mission and its approval would further our collective work to improve the quality of life for all Oregonians.

SB 907 would allow workers to reasonably refuse to do work that can cause them death, serious impairment, or serious injury— such as extreme heat or unsafe equipment. In response, an employer can either fix the dangerous condition, or move workers to other jobs that are not hazardous. Additionally, it would give workers the right to use PTO time to leave or refuse to report to a worksite due to extreme natural disasters, active evacuations, and acts of criminal violence such as mass shootings.

Unfortunately, life threatening conditions at work are not a conspiracy, this is the reality of a changing climate. We have seen farm workers lacking adequate personal protection equipment



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during wildfires in 2020, 2021 and 2022 across the state. We heard stories of farmworkers tending vineyards who felt the pressure to save crops at their health's expense during the 2020 wildfires. During extreme weather we have seen Immigrant entrepreneurs make wise decisions to close their businesses to protect themselves and their workers but these businesses are not the norm. Outdoor workers, for example, account for [20% of heat-related deaths](#). [Here](#) in Oregon, people working on the frontlines--including in smoke and extreme heat--are at a high risk of illness and death. For example, there were at least [254 complaints](#) submitted to OSHA during the Summer heat waves in 2020 and at least 3 deaths during the 3 day period of the heat-dome.

Alianza Poder's ten sister organizations: Pineros y Campesino Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, Mano a Mano Family Center, Latinos Unidos Siempre, Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos, Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas, Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, Radio Poder 98.3, EVOLVE Property Management and Workforce Development and Capaces Leadership Institute urge you to support and vote YES on SB 907.

Sincerely,

Levi Herrera-Lopez
Mano a Mano Family Center (MaM)
Executive Director

Jaime Arredondo
CAPACES Leadership Institute (CLI)
Executive Director

Reyna Lopez
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
(PCUN)
Executive Director

Sandra Hernandez - Lomeli
Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS)
Executive Director

Maria Elena Guerra
Farmworker Housing Development
Corporation (FHDC)
Executive Director

Debbie Cabrales
Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos
Executive Director

Ana Gomez
Evolve Property Management and
Workforce Development
Operations Manager

Rebeca Velasquez
Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas
Executive Director

Dunetchka Otero-Serrano
Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality
Executive Director



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Arturo Sarmiento
Radio Poder 98.3
Director

Joanne Mina
Alianza Poder Network Coordinator